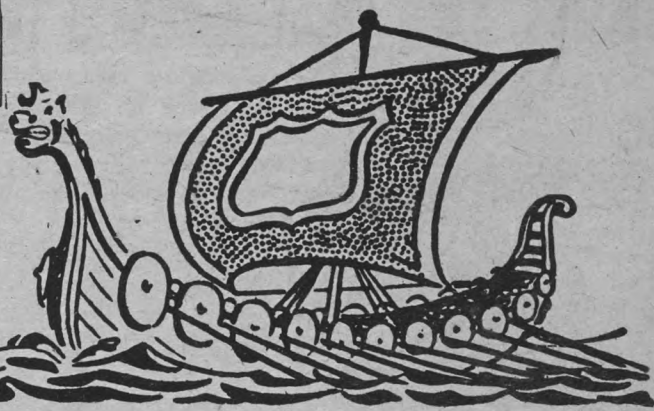


Scandinavian Centre News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

VOL. XV No. 10

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Edmonton, Alberta, October 1975

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE QUEEN

SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR SKANDIA LODGE

Dedication Day at Vasa Park

By Gertrude Holmgren

August 24, 1975, was a day we members of Skandia Lodge had looked forward to for several months. I and many others thought it was a great day—dedication of the new addition of the clubhouse and a tribute to the pioneers of Vasa Park.

As Mr. Eric Pierre told about how the "Park" came to be and of the problems and hard work the members had shared, I felt proud to think that I and my late husband had been a part of all this. We were among the first few cottage owners and I remember so well those first few years at Vasa Park. It was, as Mr. Pierre stated, just solid red willows. I wonder if those who had the foresight to purchase this property looked into a crystal ball, for who could have thought 25 years ago that our place at Pigeon Lake would one day be as beautiful as it is today.

Mr. Eric Pierre and Mr. Eric Engvall of the Past Presidents Club hung the name-plaque in place and the new addition was named "Nybyggarnas Kaffestugan" (The Settlers' Coffee House).

Chairman Mr. Leonard Eliasson gave a summary of happenings year by year. Hard work, donations and a lot of co-operation have given us, among other things, a ball park, tennis court, playground, flag pole, roads and a water supply as well as this beautiful clubhouse. It was only in this last year that we were blessed by a grant from the government, thus helping the new addition along to its completion. While Mr. Eliasson was speaking, three groups of

pictures and a plaque, dedicating the new addition to the pioneers, were unveiled.

Mr. Hugh Tadman, Director of Cultural Heritage Branch, brought greetings from the Province of Alberta. Mr. Tadman commented on Mr. Eliasson's remark about the grant saying that most people don't consider a grant a blessing. Most of them feel that government money is their own money.

Sister Mary Clare, Administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, brought greetings from the staff and patients. The patients of St. Joseph's Hospital make several visits to the "Park" during the summer and Sister Mary Clare mentioned how they look forward to these visits. On behalf of the staff and patients of St. Joseph's Hospital she presented Mr. Eliasson with two oil paintings to be hung in the clubhouse.

Mr. Per Nielsen, Vice President and Inter-Group Liaison Director of the Scandinavian Centre, spoke on behalf of the Centre stating that they were proud and happy to have the Vasa Lodge as one of its participating groups. He spoke of the co-operation involved to reach this

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DEDICATION DAY

CONTEST GALA AFFAIR Karen Nasset Chosen

By Margaret Cameron, Culture Director

The Scandinavian Centre Queen Contest took place with four contestants participating. They were:

Lena Larsen — Denmark
Susan Lundberg — Iceland
Karen Nasset — Norway
Laurie Eliason — Sweden

Nielsen, gave a very lovely farewell speech. She expressed her pleasure on having been Queen for a year. She received a great applause from the audience for being the lovely, charming Queen that she was.

The envelopes were opened. The runners up were Laurie Eliason and Susan Lundberg.

Laurie Eliason was presented with a trophy from the Swedish Vasa Lodge by President Leonard Eliasson. Susan Lundberg was also presented with a trophy from the Edmonton Icelandic Society by President Leif Oddson.

Then the envelope marked "1st Runner Up" contained the name of Lena Larson. She was presented with her trophy by the president of the Danish Society "Dania", Claus Jacobsen.

The final envelope which contained the name of the new Scandinavian Centre Queen contained the name of Karen Nasset. She will reign as Queen for 1975-76. She was presented with her trophy by Wally Broen, president of Sons of Norway Solglyt Lodge.

The retiring Queen, Inge Nielsen, crowned Karen and placed the Queen Banner on her.

The president of the Scandinavian Centre, Harv Haugen, presented the large Scandinavian Centre trophy to Karen. Margaret Cameron, Cultural Director for the Centre, congratulated the Queen and presented her with an arm spray of red roses.

Doug Peterson, Centre Treasurer, presented the Queen with a cheque for \$200 and the 1st Runner Up with \$100.

The judges were:

Continued on Page 12
QUEEN CONTEST



Karen Nasset, new Scandinavian Centre Queen, being crowned by former Queen, Inge Nielsen.

AUGUST 27

They met with the judges for their first interview. They were judged on a point system of appearance, speech, skill, talent, poise, knowledge of Canada and the country they represented and

enthusiasm.

SEPTEMBER 13

The final judging took place. The contestants displayed their talents and were judged. There were four sealed envelopes.

The retiring Queen, Inge

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

By Peter Elander

As Manager of the Scandinavian Centre I do want to make it very clear that I do have feelings just like any of you. But sometimes I do get the feeling that this is not permitted to have, at least this is the "outcry", so to speak, by some people.

I have heard the comment that the Centre was only well managed at the time when Tom Nielsen was Manager.

That statement could be correct, but did the other Managers get the co-operation and understanding that was needed to do the job?

It is co-operation and understanding I am asking for. You may wonder why I am bringing this up. Maybe it is unheard of that the Manager has the nerve to speak up.

Let us pinpoint the duties of the Manager:

1. He is to find ways to get the best possible income, so the Centre will be in the black financially.

2. He is to work with the Scandinavian ethnic groups and promote the best use of our Centre.

As I see it, these two

objectives must go hand in hand. To achieve these goals it is necessary for your Manager to try to find ways of co-operation to make this possible.

But I feel that I, also, have the right to be Peter Elander. I am, and this seems hard for people to understand, very interested in having our Centre humming with activities at all times.

SHOULD IT RATHER BE ACTIVITIES BY OUR ETHNIC GROUPS, THAN BY COMMERCIAL BUSINESS??

Is there a conflict of interest? If there is, it is not intended to be so. My only interest is for an even better Scandinavian Centre.

Maybe this is kind of hard for some of the "old-timers" to understand, but I do have the interest of the Centre in mind as much as they have. Even if I only have been here a fairly short time.

Yes, you are right, your Manager does have feelings, just like you have. Maybe we do not agree on the route to take, but we can agree on one thing—let us do what is best for our Scandinavian Centre.

LET US WORK TOGETHER—ALL OF US. □

SCANDINAVIAN CLUB?

By Les M. Greenham

The executive of all five Scandinavian ethnic groups were invited to attend a meeting at the Scandinavian Centre on Wednesday evening, Sept. 24, for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of forming a Scandinavian Club to be held in the basement of the Scandinavian Centre.

The turnout was excellent and the enthusiasm was very encouraging. Harv Haugen, the Scandinavian Centre President, chaired the meeting and was his usual excellent self.

Peter Elander, the Centre Manager, gave an inspiring pep talk in favor of such an undertaking.

"Beth, my wife, and I decided, after much soul searching and figuring out, that we would take the \$300 cash.

"Later we made arrangements to have Mr. Burgess and Mr. Olsen over to receive the cheque and have our picture taken for the Edmonton Journal."

This was the fourth draw for the 300 lbs. of beef and Mr. Olsen says if there were any others who would like to get a chance on such a draw

It appears on the surface that there will be a lot of work involved before this idea becomes a reality. The Scandinavian Centre Board of Directors and Peter Elander are hoping for a lot of feedback and, of course, they hope you will be as much in favor of the idea as those who attended the meeting.

A brief description of the idea or plan is to renovate the basement at the Scandinavian Centre where you can proudly take visitors or friends to have lunch or refreshments, not only on weekends, but any day or evening during the week; or maybe you would like a sauna bath, etc. We shall not, at this moment, attempt to mention all the possibilities that were brought up. We suggest you look for more details in the November issue of the Scandinavian Centre News. □

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SWEDISH — Leonard Eliasson, 13011 - 135 Street, 455-9457

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Harvey Haugen, 8806 - 162 Street, 489-1171 & 425-3817

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Scandinavian groups, societies, organizations, associations or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of members' names and addresses. A mailing charge of 6¢ per copy will be payable. This payment and other correspondence is to be addressed to: The Scandinavian Centre News 10203 - 78 Street

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Christine Ellingson

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Lucky Editor

The Managing Editor of the Scandinavian Centre News, Leslie L. Morris, was the lucky recipient of a draw for 300 lbs. of Grade A Beef.

It all started when a sales representative from the Northern Kirby Co. Ltd., 8602 - 99 St., Edmonton, Lloyd Olsen, knocked at the door of the Morris residence. Mr. Olsen said he was selling Kirby vacuum cleaning units and would I like to receive 300 lbs. of beef.

"Naturally, I was a little skeptical," said Mr. Morris, "but I invited him in and listened to what he had to say. Most times I have little time for sales people, but Mr. Olsen looked like a serious and honest salesman.

"He told me there was first a daily draw in which I could win one of the following:

1. Homemaker Cutlery Set
2. Rug Deep Cleaned
3. Mattress Deep Cleaned
4. One Set of Living Room Furniture Deep Cleaned

"with a Preview of the Fabulous New Kirby".

"All I had to do was give my name, address and phone number.

"I could see nothing wrong here and thought what a novel way to sell vacuum cleaners. I didn't know what my wife's vacuum cleaner was like, so I said OK.

"A few days later," Mr. Morris continued, "I received a phone call saying we had won one of the four items, and also still had a chance on the 300 lbs. of



Lloyd Olsen, sales representative of Northern Kirby Co. Ltd., presenting Beth and Les Morris cheque for winning draw.

beef which was to be drawn on Sept. 15.

"After consulting with my wife, we decided to get the living room furniture deep cleaned—seeing as how we do have a dog. The rug was new and didn't need cleaning.

"After the demonstration my wife wanted to get it but said she had only recently gotten her vacuum cleaner and we should use it at least another year.

"On Sept. 15, I got another call from Mr. Olsen asking me what we thought about the Kirby. Well, I told him what my wife had said and was surprised by his answer. 'Even so,' he said 'let me be the first to congratulate you on winning the draw for the 300 lbs. of beef.'

"Naturally, I was flab-gasted, not really expecting to win anything, but there it was. I then talked to the President of the Kirby Co., Allan Burgess, who also congratulated me and said if we were unable to use the beef we could either have \$300 or the Kirby vacuuming unit.

to contact him, Lloyd Olsen (who, incidentally, is of

Continued on Page 12

LUCKY EDITOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

John FALTINSON, Edmonton — \$5.00

Olaf SVEEN, Edmonton — \$2.00

Lillian FRENCH, Hanna — \$10.00

Gustaf J. ALGOT, Edmonton — \$10.00

E. OYESTAU, Wetaskiwin — \$5.00

E. L. SWANLUND, Edmonton — \$5.00

Mr. and Mrs. R. HARMS, Valleyview — \$2.00

Mrs. Signe L. JOHNSON, Edmonton — \$5.00

Jorgen C. KNAER, Vernon, B.C. — \$5.00

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Lois Halberg
COMING EVENTS
Leif Erikson Night
Saturday, Oct. 4

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Centre

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CURLING

Oct. 12. Every other Sunday
at 2 p.m.

Crestwood Rink

Curlers are needed so call
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TORSKE KLUBBEN

Oct. 7

Evening meeting

Speaker — Toastmaster
Group

Nov. 4

Noon Meeting

The Western Barbecue and Dance and the Scandinavian Centre Queen Contest held Sept. 13 was a gala affair with 200 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed barbecuing and the delicious trimmings. The highlight of the evening was the crowning of Miss Scandinavian Centre, Sons of Norway Queen, Karin Nasset. President of the Scandinavian Centre, Harv Haugen, was MC along with Margaret Cameron, Chairwoman of the Queen Contest. Karin wore a Norwegian costume made by her mother, Alice, and the lovely embroidery work was done by Alice and Karin. Talented Karin showed a wonderful display of her own stichery, hardanger and weaving crafts she learned while attending school in Norway. Congratulations, Karin, Sons of Norway are very proud of you. Entertainment and a dance rounded out this successful evening. Special thanks to Betty Broen, Gail Peterson, Bea Huser, Sherry Hill and Glen Huser.

Harv and Betty Haugen and family enjoyed a month holiday in their motorhome. Their first stop was Calgary attending the Inter-Provincial Trailer Rally. From there they went to Kalispell and Missoula where they had dinner at Marshall and Vivian Moy's ranch. They then travelled to Gearhart, Oregon (on the Oregon coast) where a most enjoyable week was spent with the Unge Venner Young Peoples Group of Sons of Norway. There were young people attending from Alaska to Florida, including Donald Isert, formerly of Edmonton now living in Vancouver. Mr.

Trygve Soyland, Secretary of the Supreme Lodge, also attended. The Haugens' points of interest stops included several Rock Museums and the U.S.S. Missouri anchored in Bremerton, Washinton. They made stops at Seattle, Chilliwack, Lillooet, via the Cariboo Region to Dawson Creek enroute home.

Recent guests from Oslo, Norway, at the home of Thor and Reidun Berg were Thor's brother's family who vacationed here and the U.S. for a month. Thor and Rei had a pleasant fishing trip to Cranberry Portage near Flin Flon, Manitoba. Trout fishing was great, the roads were something else, they had two bulldozers pull their car through.

Myrtle, Betty Travis, Sharon and Larry travelled to Ontario for a month, visiting their daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and Eric Ball, in London, Ont. They also visited Betty's sister, Isabelle, in Sudbury.

Nels and Isabelle Mjaatveit motored to Victoria where they visited Isabelle's brother. On return they stopped in Vancouver and drove the southern route to Grand Forks, visited Nel's cousin in Nelson and their daughter, Lillian, and family in Calgary.

Well-travelled Ole and Win Dahl, are now on a charter bus tour to Nova Scotia.

Helge and Lillian Nilsen spent an enjoyable holiday off Vancouver Island despite inclement weather. Salmon fishing was good for some, the one Helge caught was approximately 80 centimeters or 2 1/4 kilograms.

Ragna Sivertson and her granddaughter vacationed in Norway. Unfortunately there are no details as at the time of print, Mrs. Sivertsen was away.

Gordon Berdahl spent the weekend of Sept. 12th harvesting with his dad at Carbon, Alta.

Del and Doreen Melsness have taken up new residence in the Viking Arms. On Sept. 29 they left on a three-week vacation, flying to London, England, and Spain where they will then take a Mediterranean cruise.

Molly Cooper is holidaying in Scandinavia. She flew to Amsterdam and is touring via Eurail for three weeks.

Leif and Marjorie Verklund have left Edmonton to retire at Sorrento, B.C. in the Shuswap area. We wish them well.

Former lodge member Esther (Halberg) Smith and

My Trip to Norway

By Astrid Hope

It was with a note of nostalgia that I was to visit Norway this year. It was sure to be Mother's last visit—she said—and wished that her daughters, Myrtle and I, should meet our kinfolk still in Norway. We should be so fortunate as to meet them personally, and learn about our parents' early life and some history of our ancestors, instead of, maybe at a later date, having to trace through biographies, old bibles, church records, photographs. Myrtle, from Kamloops, B.C., and mother from Govan, Sask., both arrived in Edmonton to leave together from Edmonton.

Prior to our take-off with Air Canada, May 12, we got right into the swing of Norwegian cuisine with a farewell smorgasbordlunch, topped with a strawberry "bløtekake" (shortcake) given by a close relative. Also going along with the very popular Norwegian custom—you see it at every airport, train or bus terminal, flowers, and is just like a farewell ritual—so we were all enhanced with a corsage for the send-off, too.

After all our baggage, passports checked and all in order, and waiting to board the plane, we encountered the young couple to whose wedding we had attended the Saturday before, and who were now going to Sweden for their honeymoon, the groom's birthplace. It was 10 years ago we (John and I) had been the honeymooners, but going to Norway, not Sweden.

In the course of eight hours and 5 minutes which it took to get to Norway, we certainly were well fed. We had two meals and three lunches, which must also be a prelude to the frequency of eating we were about to experience. They said, "Leave calorie counters off your itineraries when in Norway."

In the meantime, Myrtle was studying her pocket size

family have recently moved here from Ottawa. Husband Bill is stationed at R.C.A.F. Base Namao.

Astrid Hope, Cultural Director, has been invited to give instructions for hardanger, Oct. 5, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Provincial Museum and Archives.

Sorry to hear Janette Burt had the misfortune to fall and break her arm.

Our sympathies are extended to Mrs. Edna Holte and family of Sherwood Park on the passing of her husband, Milo Holte.

We express our condolences to Mr. Bill Boyer on the recent loss of his wife, Lilly Boyer.

Next month's correspondent will be Bernice Nyhus, phone 487-1450. □

booklet, "Learn to speak Norwegian". I'm afraid mom expected miracles—Myrtle vowed if mom could learn Spanish, she'd learn Norwegian—in eight hours! But she was trying and I was brushing up.

The Midnight Sun is an unforgettable spectacle. We did happen to get a glimpse of it—going over the top. Right then, the days were becoming longer—something like 18-24 hours of daylight.

We arrived at Solo airport, Stavanger, at 1 p.m. (which was by our time, 12:45 a.m.) There were the embraces, handshakes and salutations like "Takk for sidst (Thanks for the last time)" which seems to me to be one of the most courteous of all greetings in the Norwegian language. It could be years ago, or just yesterday, since you had met, and it would be with the same greeting. After arriving at our destination—Aalgaard—mother's hometown and only an hour's drive from the airport, we visited and dined. By 6 p.m. we were just beat and bid "God Nat" to all.

See Norway in May! Norway has so much to offer in this delightful month. Nature is at its loveliest! We could see the country just ablaze with fruit trees and shrubbery in full bloom. Waterfalls are at their liveliest, coming down from the spring thaw, thundering down the mountains. The greenery was just exploding, and the countryside everywhere appeared like huge, fresh, green lawns.

First thing next morning was to call in on Gjesdal Sparebank for some funds to work with. It is interesting to note that my grandfather started this bank (in which year I cannot recall) and still bears his name. We hardly expected any bonus or anything for our U.S. travellers cheque, but we

Continued on Page 11
TRIP TO NORWAY

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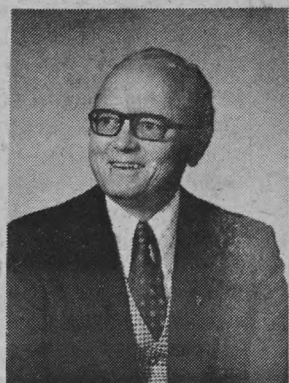
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Icelanders Honour Icelandic-Canadian Poet *Icelandic National*

Markerville and District Host to Over 500 Icelanders

By L. Kathleen Johnson

Sunday, August 10, 1975, was a day of celebration and ceremony. This was the day of the dedication of the **Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead House** as an Historic Site, and more than a thousand Icelanders, Canadian-Icelanders, members of the Icelandic Clubs of Calgary, Edmonton and Markerville, and friends and neighbors from far and near, came to Markerville in 11 buses, cars, campers and motor homes.

As people gathered at the Memorial Park by the Medicine River, Canadian-Icelanders talked to relatives, friends of relatives, people who told them about the towns, villages and districts where their ancestors were born. It was a wonderful time of visiting. The day was beautifully warm—ideal for the cold plate dinner which 750 enjoyed at noon.

The Glima Group made a presentation to **Joe Johansson** of an Icelandic table symbol as well as a large Icelandic flag which was carried by Icelanders, representing the four corners of their country, to the **Stephan G. Stephansson** monument on the hill in the park.

Joe Johansson accepted the flag on behalf of the **Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society**, the Alberta Icelandic Community and the entire district of Markerville.

The large assembly moved to the dedication site where the program began at 2 p.m.

Mr. Sam Thorkelson of Edmonton was Master of Ceremonies.

Dignitaries included **Mr. Vilhjamur Hjalmarsson**, Icelandic Minister of Culture and Education; **Mr. Gunnar Gudbjartsson**, President of the Farmers' Union of Iceland; **Gudmundur Kristjansson**, Board Member of the Farmers' Union of Iceland; **Gisli Gudmundson**, President of the Icelandic National League; **Miss Helen Hunley**, Minister of Social Services and Community Health for Alberta; **Mr. Cliff Doan**, M.L.A. for Innisfail; **Mr. Gordon Towers**, M.P. for Red Deer; **Mr. Les Edgar**, Reeve of the County of Red Deer. Other platform guests were **Mrs. Rosa Benediktson**

of Red Deer, the poet's daughter, and **Dr. Svenn Thordarson**, a member of the Icelandic Ethnic Community and lecturer at Red Deer College.

The C.F.B. Penhold Cadet Band, under the direction of **Major Keith Mann**, played before and after the program. This was an 80-member band of Air Cadets and Cadettes and played in a beautifully organized manner. The crowd enjoyed this music.

Some of the highlights of the program included the presentation of an Alberta Atlas to **Mr. Vilhjamur Hjalmarsson**, Icelandic Minister of Culture and Education by **Mr. Horst Schmid**, Minister of Culture for Alberta; the presentation of a \$10,000 cheque by **Gunnar Gudbjartsson** from the Icelandic Farmers Union to **Joe Johansson** who accepted on behalf of the **Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society**. This will be put into a trust fund and used for the restoration of the poet's house; presentation of a painting of the poet's house by **Kris Johnson** to **Sveinn Einarsson**, Director of the National Theatre, and by **Joe Johansson** to **Gunnar Gudbjartsson** of the Farmers' Union. These paintings were done by **Doris Eluik** of Innisfail.

Singing by the choir of the Icelandic National Theatre, under the direction of **Carl Billich**, was enjoyed by all present, as these beautiful voices sang the hymns and folk songs of their country, and poems set to music of the poet, **Stephan G. Stephansson**.

After the program, the Glima Group of 22 young men performed their feats of wrestling and gymnastics on the grass before the Homestead House.

It was a day of fulfillment, the realization of a dream coming true, and the beginning of a project for Icelanders everywhere who have longed to have the poet's house made into an historic site. □

CORRECTIONS

Some corrections of details in the September issue of the **Scandinavian Centre News** concerning the birthplace and early home

WEDDING BELLS

Jones -

Vigfusson

Sandra D. Vigfusson, daughter of **Dr. and Mrs. N. Vigfusson** of 902 Summit Drive, Cheney, Wash., was married to **David L. Jones** of Spokane, Wash., in a June 28, 1975, ceremony conducted by **Pastor Wayne Olsen** of Medical Lake at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Cheney.

The groom is the son of **Mrs. Phyllis K. Jones** of Spokane.

Candelabras and baskets of gladioli and colored daisies decorated the church for the ceremony.

The bride chose a formal gown of white organza. The bishop sleeves and V yoke were of cluney lace and the full skirt was dotted with venise appliques and trimmed by a deep cluney lace flounce. It flowed into a chapel drape train. Seed pearls enhanced the gown.

The headpiece was of cluney lace and seed pearls. It held a veil of silk illusion. The bride carried a cascade of white roses and pink gladioli.

The matron of honor was **Mrs. Karen Johan** of Fort McMurray, Alta. Bridesmaids were **Frances Young** of Edmonton; **Leslie Jones**, sister of the groom; **Lynn Scheideman** of Stony Plain; and **Sherri Vigfusson**, sister

of **Mike Johnson**. **Mike** says "my parents, among a number of Icelandic immigrant families, homesteaded and settled near the banks of the Qu'Appelle River (not the Assiniboine River and not the town of Qu'Appelle, which is located on the main line of the C.P.R. about 40 miles east of Regina), but in the district of 'Assiniboia' which became a part of Saskatchewan at the time of confederation. When our school was built, the settlers chose the name of 'Holar' after a school in Iceland named 'Holar'. The nearest town since 1903 has been Tantallon. But the Icelandic settlement is still known as the Holar district".

My apologies to **Mike** for these errors.

—Les Greenham □

of the bride.

The attendants wore similar gowns with picture hats which matched the color and design of the dresses. The gowns were of pastel colors of dotted Swiss with daisy appliques. They carried crescents of pastel colored daisies.

Trevor Vigfusson, brother of the bride, was the ring bearer and **Tracey Vigfusson**, sister of the bride, was the flower girl. **Jaye Vigfusson** of Edmonton handed out the scrolls before the service and **Mrs. Paula Barnard** attended the guest book. **Karen Kuhn** of Cheney was the candle lighter.

Gary Pearson of Spokane was the best man and **Nick Langston** of Spokane, **Dean Vigfusson**, brother of the bride, **John Shea** of Wauconda, Ill., and **Ed Jones**, brother of the groom, were the other groom's attendants. **Ken Hawes** of Edmonton, **Robbie Smith** and **Mike Beckwith** of Cheney served as ushers.

Mrs. H. Stevens was the organist and **N. Mikelson** was the soloist.

A dinner and dance was held at the Ridpath Motor Hotel following the wedding ceremony. **Dr. Glen Fuglsby** of Cheney said "grace" at the dinner. **Glenn Gorrell** of Ottawa was the Master of Ceremonies and **Herb Vigfusson** of Edmonton proposed a toast to the couple.

Following dinner, the wedding cake was served to the guests by **Karen Kuhn** and **Sharon Galloway**.

Photographs were taken by **Dr. S. Kasuga** and **Polly Dredricks**.

The newlyweds took a two-week trip to Disneyland and also visited the Oregon Coast. They are now residing at E. 2809 Upriver Drive in Spokane. □

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Theatre at

Memorial Centre

From Sylvan Lake News

Saturday, August 9 at the Memorial Centre in Red Deer a concert by the National Theatre and Choir of Iceland presented a two-hour concert to around 500 appreciative persons from Calgary, Edmonton and central Alberta.

Although the language was Icelandic, this was no barrier for the drama, music and interpretive excerpts between parts made the concert enjoyable for all.

Music by the 35-voice choir was interspersed with the drama.

Carl Billich was the choirmaster of the National Theatre Opera Choir and **Gunnar Eyjolfsson** directed and narrated the drama of the National Theatre.

The program portrayed highlights of Icelandic history. Some of these were:

- Acceptance of Christianity
- Adoption of the Lutheran faith
- Excerpts from old and new plays
- Poetry
- Singing

All this had a background of slides, showing summer and winter scenes in Iceland.

People of many ethnic origins enjoyed the presentation of a group from another country, and feel the richer for having viewed a tapestry of Icelandic poetry, music and drama presented by the Icelandic National Opera Choir and the Icelandic National Theatre Group. □

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VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Millie Weiss

The Sept. 6 meeting was held in the Clubhouse at Pigeon Lake with Leonard Eliasson chairing the meeting. The charter was draped in memory of Lilly Boyer who passed away on August 30, 1975.

Lunch was served after the meeting. A potluck supper was held before the meeting, thanks to our host and hostess, Magnus and Betty Pearson. As usual a huge success and lots of good eating was enjoyed by all.

On Aug. 24, 1975, the new addition to the clubhouse was opened. A good turnout was on hand and by all reports it was enjoyed by all. I was unable to attend and had hoped someone would give me a write-up on it to put in the paper.

Bill and Martha Kay motored to Kamloops then, in company with Harold, Lulu and Lisa Lundgren, continued on to Vancouver where they were guests at the McMillan and Healy wedding. The mother of the groom is Ida McMillan who was a member of Vasa Children's Club in former years. From there Bill and Martha visited with friends in Surrey, Nanaimo and Victoria.

Margaret Lundgren has been visiting relatives and friends, also attending the Scandinavian Centre Queen Contest.

Ken and Carol Banks recently made a trip to Quebec and Montreal. While in Montreal they stayed at the home of Lee and Fae Doty. Fae is the daughter of Gus and Helga Johnson and is a member of our Lodge. They sent their regards to all their friends in Vasa Lodge.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bengt Christensen who were married on Sept. 12; also to Mr. and Mrs. A. Anderson on the birth of their son.

ATTENTION

Anyone interested in curling, will you phone Glen at 454-6357 or Helen at 476-3934. Curling will be on Friday nights at 7 p.m. at the Avenue Curling Club, 9430 - 117 Ave.

Anyone interested in starting Children's Club Skandia Lodge, contact Doreen Nyroos, 469-8286 or Sonja Berkstrom, 466-7218 by Sept. 30.

Ladies Auxiliary will be held on Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Engvald, 11845 - 65 St.

Don't forget the Smorgasbord and Dance at the Scandinavian Centre on Oct. 25.

The October meeting will

be held in the Nordic Room on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. A Wine and Cheese Party will be held following the meeting. Greg and Francis Johnson will be our host and hostess. □

The Death of Lilly Boyer

It is with deepest regret that Skandia Lodge #549 Vasa Order of America announces the death on August 30, 1975, of a sister member, Lilly Boyer, born April 21, 1912, in Bawlf, Alberta.

Sister Boyer was an esteemed member of Lodge Skandia #549, initiated as Member No. 177 on Dec. 4, 1937. Lilly was responsible for many of our very enjoyable smorgasbord programs and dances; the music behind Scandapades for many years and provided music when needed for numerous camp days, children's club functions and dance practices. She was a very willing and obliging person and will be greatly missed by all.

The members of Lodge Skandia extend their heartfelt sympathy to her husband William, son Eric and mother Mrs. Erickson. □

Letter to Skandia

Dear Friends:

Upon receiving the notice of the Dedication Day ceremony to mark the completion of the Clubhouse at Vasa Park on Pigeon Lake, my thoughts flew back to Alberta (as they often do) and my mind was bubbling over with pleasant memories of my childhood summers at Vasa Park.

I guess that one of the things that stands out in my mind is that while I was spending lazy carefree summers with my friends at Vasa Park, there were always people working around me. Vasa Park would not have come into existence without the unending efforts of the men and women who worked so very hard through the years to build the facilities and provide the services which are enjoyed today. Men and women spent many a hot summer day (and many a rainy day, too!) working on the Clubhouses (both old and new), clearing the grounds, establishing sports facilities and, generally, giving of themselves unselfishly for whole summers so that one day the

Saga Singers to Entertain at Annual Swedish Smorgasbord

By Erling Winqvist

The Saga Singers of the Icelandic Society of Edmonton will entertain at the Annual Swedish Smorgasbord on Saturday night, Oct. 25, 1975.

Also to perform at the Scandinavian Centre are the Sapphires who are the Sweet Adeline's ladies barbershop quartet.

The food will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with entertainment from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight.

Admission will be \$5.00 for adults and for children, 12 and under, it will be \$2.50 each.

As there will be only a limited number of tickets sold, you are advised to get your tickets early.

Park would be complete. I might add that these same people somehow found time to help their neighbours who were building cottages and still had time left over in the evenings to gather around a bonfire with the children and sing the old songs to the accompaniment of an accordion, or perhaps a guitar and a violin.

Over the years a variety of organized activities have been enjoyed by all at Vasa Park. One of the events that comes to my mind is the annual Camp Week which provided fun and camaraderie for children from various lodges. I shall never forget our culture leaders who patiently taught us Swedish songs and folk dances while we fidgeted in the afternoon sun and longed to go swimming! Nor shall I forget all of the volunteers who organized the week and those who slaved away in hot kitchens to provide nourishing and tasty meals for sixty-five or so starving campers three times a day. I might also mention those who carried water, chopped firewood and fetched milk regularly at the neighbouring farm, and attended to the numerous tasks involved in keeping the camp in order.

While I have not seen the latest addition to the Clubhouse, I am sure that the greatest expectations of the founders of Vasa Park have been realized. I truly hope that visitors to the Park today will realize that this Park is a unique legacy and it must be used and cared for by all age groups and never taken for granted.

It is with pride that I join in congratulating those Lodge members who created this memorial to our Swedish heritage, which I hope to revisit some day soon!

Sincerely,
Fae Doty
1825 Dunant, No. 408
St. Bruno, Quebec □

For tickets, please contact Eric Pierre at 12831 122 St., phone 455-5708; Doreen Nyroos, 7207 - 92B Ave., phone 469-8286; or Erling Winqvist at 10 Sheridan Drive, St. Albert, phone 599-7075. □

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☐ Vasa Lodge ☐ Some other source

DANIA DOINGS



By Lili Nielsen

DANIA will be having a WHISTDRIVE on October 14, 1975, at 8:00 p.m. in the Dania Room at the Scandinavian Centre. We hope to see a lot of you on this date.

Our October dance will be held on Saturday, October 18, 1975, at 7:00 p.m. and this evening will be a BANQUET consisting of SILD, SNAPS AND SMØRREBRØD. Limited tickets at the cost of \$7.50 per person will be available from any of the Board members. Last day for tickets will be October 14, 1975. Get your tickets early to prevent disappointment.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DANIA will be having their ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on October 22, 1975, at 8:00 p.m. in the Dania Room and we would urge all of our members to attend this very important meeting. We shall be ELECTING A PRESIDENT and FOUR BOARD MEMBERS. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY and attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

BIKUBEN will meet on the third Monday of the month, October 20, 1975. We hope to see you all on that date.

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Due to an oversight in the August issue of the paper certain information was left out of our notice. The names listed are the names of people which the Danish Consulate is trying to locate. Should anyone know their whereabouts, please contact Misse Holm-Pedersen at 436-4334. Sorry for any confusion this oversight may have caused.

— The Secretary □

ANSGAR LUTHERAN NEWS

By Pastor H. Madsen

As the green of the summer leaves give way to the magnificent blends of gold and red, we are once again reminded that summer is over, fall is here and the time for harvest has arrived.

With the advent of the harvest season, we traditionally think of our Harvest Festivals. These Harvest Festivals are de-

Is Something Rotten in Old "Dania"?

By Earl Andersen

I and some other members of "Dania" are signed for us to have an opportunity to take time to thank our Creator for His bountiful care for all our needs in the past year. How do we really express our gratitude so that it truly conveys how we feel? In our relations with our fellow men we express our gratitude by presenting to one another "Special Gifts". With these gifts we hope to convey "this is how grateful I feel". However, having given a gift on a special occasion, we do not stop saying thanks to our friends for the rest of the year; But there are some feelings which we cannot express in words in a forceful enough manner, therefore we resort to "Special Gifts".

And so it is in our relationship to God; sometimes we need the avenue of "Special Gifts" to truly express our gratitude. This opportunity is provided through our Harvest Festivals, being held this year in English on Oct. 12, and in Danish on Oct. 19, at 11 a.m. At this time worshippers are invited to place their "Special Gift" of Thanks-giving on the altar.

This year, we are providing an additional opportunity to say "Thanks" to God, by reaching out to the needs of our fellow-men who, for one reason or another, find themselves in less favorable circumstances than we. We are asking ALL WORSHIPPERS, YOUNG AND OLD, to bring a "Special Gift" of food, of any description, and to place it before God's altar. This is at both the English as well as the Danish Service. These foodstuffs will then be taken to the Marian Centre, where so many of our own city's hungry folk are fed. So this Thanksgiving let our motto be—"Let's do a little giving, so that others can do a little living."

And, as per usual, during the months of October and November, we have our Fall Drive, or Ingathering of monetary gifts, so that our congregation may carry on its work in the coming year. The past year has been a "good" year financially for our Church, and we want to say a hearty thanks to all those who made this "Good Year" a reality, your support is most encouraging. But we should also invite all those who, last year, "thought about" supporting Ansgar Church, but never quite got around to it, to "DO IT THIS YEAR", with the reminder that good intentions don't pay any bills. This year make your good intention to support your Church, in reality. Thank you in advance for your gift. □

concerned over what seems to be lack of leadership from the present executive—or are there some other reasons?

If it is the case of "tired" leadership, then it is time to make some changes at the Annual Meeting, October 22, 1975.

If the case is little participation by the members at large, it is then time to find out WHY!

It is my hope the

THANK YOU NOTE

By Vera Nielsen

Last night, Sept. 15, was the first meeting of "BIKUBEN" after the summer holidays and did I ever get a big surprise, as I was handed a gift parcel—surprised and, of course, very pleased.

It seems that a collection was taken up at "BIKUBEN's" 20th anniversary for this purpose.

As I have no names of the ones that took part in that celebration, I thought I would thank you in this manner and the ones who helped towards this gift will know.

The gift was a piece of stramaj of Ebeltøft Raadhus for me to sew, and money besides for a frame. I just love it. As not many ladies showed up last night, I would like to make a copy of what was written in the card:

"Kære Vera.

"Som forsiden siger 'Karlighed er som en Rose, Glæden paa hele jorden' netop saadan finder vi alle dig—alle os, der har lært dit kærlige hjerte at kende, din dør har altid været aaben og din gavmildhed kender ingen grænser. Til 'BIKUBEN'S' re-union fandt vi paa at gøre bare en lille smule for dig og her er altsaa resultatet. Naar du syr dette, kan du sende en tanke til pigerne der var til festen, da dette vil være et minde om samme.

"De kærlegste ønsker om alt godt i fremtiden.

"BIKUBEN"

Thank you all. Vera. □

Looking Back the Past Year

By Inge Nielsen
Ex-Scandinavian Centre Queen

It's hard to believe that one year has come and gone since I was crowned Miss Scandinavian Centre Queen 1974-75. So many things have happened in one year it is hard to put everything down into one short column. There always seemed to be some sort of activity or event going on so that I had a very

Continued on Page 11
LOOKING BACK

problems can be solved. THEY MUST BE SOLVED. If Dania is slowly dying (and I must admit this is the feeling I have been getting), what are the reasons? Could it be that the activities have not changed with the times?

Have we forgotten to change with the times? Has anything been done to find out what the members want? Are the parties just another party with no, or little, action in getting the evening to be a special evening with other enjoyments other than just to have some drinks? It is the duty of the Directors to find out what the members want. Have they done this?

If you, as a member of Dania, have a strong feeling that something must be done, then come to the Annual Meeting and say so. But do it in a good manner. Let us work together to bring Dania back to its proper place within the ethnic groups and in the Scandinavian Centre so the word again will go around that the Danes, for sure, know how to enjoy themselves.

I urge you to come to the Annual Meeting, October 22—be part of the future of Dania.

I am going to do something about it. HOW ABOUT YOU? □

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FINNISH SOCIETY



By Elmer Kankkunen

During the summer months the Finnish Society takes a long holiday and as a consequence very little has been happening.

Way back in June, the Edmonton and Calgary Finns got together to celebrate "Juhannus" at Mulhurst Beach on Pigeon Lake. This was a first attempt at a joint affair and was reasonably successful although turnout by Calgarians wasn't quite up to earlier expectations. Possibly some of the Calgarians assumed weather conditions at the site to be similar to the weather in Calgary, namely torrential rains, at the time, however this was not the case. The weather was excellent at Mulhurst Beach, in fact many Edmonton Finns came back with severe sunburns. It was an opportunity to meet new people, to enjoy the sun, swimming and sauna and to take part in some friendly competitions. Apparently, Edmonton Finns won the streaking, and our club president, Pentti Sipari, also caught the biggest fish.

When Mr. Vesalainen came of age, retirement age that is, he decided to pull the pin, and he returned last June to live in Finland after some 25 years residence in Canada. The Vesalainen family was active in the Finnish Society since its formation and in recent years, daughter Ulla has faithfully assisted the choir by providing piano accompaniment at all choir practices and performances. Ulla, a teacher in the Edmonton public school system, hopes to obtain a position teaching English in Finland. We are sorry to see these folks go, and wish them the best of luck! Let's hope that Mr. Vesalainen can finally satisfy that long-time yearning for those Kotka sprats.

Earlier this year the Finnish Society received a cultural grant from the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. The grant was earmarked for two main purposes:

(a) to develop a folk dancing group which would be able to participate, first in the Finnish Grand Festival in June in Thunder Bay, and then later in various ethnic programs in Alberta

(b) to research the history of Finnish immigration in Alberta by interviewing old-timers and the descendants of early pioneers, also by researching the archives of Finnish-Canadian newspapers and all other possible sources.

Our efforts in these cultural pursuits have met with some setbacks and delays. Although we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Martti

Vanhapelto, a highly regarded teacher of Finnish Folk Dancing from Thunder Bay early in May, the dancers rightfully felt that they were not yet ready to perform in public after such a brief period of instruction.

Plans to participate in other aspects of the Festival also fell through as members who had shown an earlier interest discovered too many personal obstacles.

Albert Karvonen offered to film and interview some of our old-timers in conjunction with his other filming field trips. I, in turn, volunteered to research old Finnish newspaper files, as I know that there were a few regular correspondents from the west. Their accounts of local events and activities would probably give us a valuable insight into the past. However, I have been employed on marine surveys on the Mackenzie River for the past few months, so I, personally, haven't been able to do anything in this regard. I have not been in touch with Albert, so I have no knowledge as to what he may have accomplished.

In other words, I repeat my opening statement that very little has been happening. That state of affairs will be rectified in the very near future.

At a recent meeting of the executive, the decision was made to contact Mr. Vanhapelto to set a date for additional instruction in folk dancing. At least the interest of the membership in this ancient cultural form remains keen, so perhaps we have taken our first important steps.

The proposed historical research is a major task which may take several years to complete. In view of the advanced age of some of our old-timers, it is important that we proceed with the interviewing as soon as possible. We already have on our list the names of several older people whom we intend to interview this fall. In the meantime, we welcome suggestions as to possible suitable candidates from all Alberta Finns.

COMING EVENTS

Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale to be held at the Scandinavian Centre, Oct. 18, 1975. Home baking, handicrafts, recorded music. Contact Pentti Sipari for additional details.

ODDS & ENDS

Congratulations to citizens of Vegreville for erecting the world's largest Easter Egg!

Recommended reading for Norwegians and other cross-country skiers—The First Hundred Years—a tribute to Jack Rabbit Johannsen.

Recommended reading for Finns and Scandinavians—The Finnish Sauna—Peace of Mind, Body and Soul.

Peace! □

FINLAND - SUOMI

PART IV CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

After the liberation from Czarist rule a republican and democratic form of government was able to be established. In 1919 the constitution of independent Finland came into force, and in all essentials has remained unchanged to this day.

In framing the Constitution, the "Founding Fathers" of the Finnish Republic were able to build upon centuries of democratic tradition. From the earliest days self-government had been practiced in Finland where feudalism had never existed nor slavery ever been known. The system of government had developed along that of Sweden; Finland had taken part in the election of Swedish kings and had been represented in the Swedish parliament. Even throughout the period of Russian rule, Finland had had its own legislature which in 1906 had been made into a single-chamber Parliament elected by universal and equal vote. Finland became one of the first countries in the world to allow women to vote.

The Constitution of 1919 was modeled partly on the American one.

From the English, Finland adopted the principle of parliamentarianism: the cabinet must have the confidence of a majority in Parliament. Parliament has 200 members elected for four years under a system of proportional representation.

PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

To strengthen the executive, however, the President was granted quite strong powers. He has a right to initiate legislation, and all laws passed by Parliament have to be ratified by him before they come into force.

The President may also dissolve Parliament and call for new elections. He is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces—this command he can delegate in wartime to someone else—and he makes all higher appointments. Finally, he is responsible for foreign relations, though in matters affecting war and peace he can act only with the consent of Parliament. The President is elected for a term of six years by an electoral college of 300 members which in turn is elected in the same way as Parliament.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Constitution includes a Bill of Rights similar to the Canadian. All citizens without discrimination are guaranteed the protection of life, honour and personal liberty; rights of property, and privacy of the home, freedom of worship and speech, and the right of

meeting and association are safeguarded. The freedom of the press, and the privacy of the mail, telegrams, and telephones, are declared inviolable. All citizens are equal before the law, and no one can be sentenced except by a competent court of justice. The independence of the courts of law is assured.

The independence of the judicial branch of the government is guaranteed by the Constitution. □

Student Community Service Program 1975

The Student Community Service Program - 1975 is a Government of Canada program designed to strengthen and further develop voluntary organizations by improving their capacity to respond to changing community needs, and by channelling the energy and imagination of youth into the voluntary sector.

PROJECT

VASA VENTURE OBJECTIVES

Provide proper drainage for sports area and playground, clear underbrush to reduce fire hazard, complete a new roadway.

Project Officer Evelyn Battell will visit the site when work begins and may check from time to time as the work progresses.

I. E. (Don) Johnson is the person responsible for the summer project and only he is authorized to issue work orders unless he has so delegated another person during those times he is not on the site.

Linnea Lodge will act as time keeper during the project and payroll cheques will be issued every two weeks. It will be necessary for each student to complete a time sheet for each day while working on the project.

Our organization and the student participants will also be expected to prepare a report on the project and

participate in evaluations to be conducted by the Department of the Secretary of State and the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

In connection with this program, Skandia Lodge No. 549, Vasa Order of America, received a grant of \$1,896.64 that covered salaries for four students for the month of July. As none of these young people had worked too much before, they were taught how to take instructions from an employer and carry out these duties without constant supervision. They learned that one has a responsibility to the employer who supplies the salary. They were fortunate in finding one girl who worked just as hard as the three boys. They enjoyed working in the park because at the end of the day they were near their recreation.

SOME OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED

- Set out logs for shore support
- Fortified shore line where trees were being attacked by water erosion
- Cleaned rocks from water at lake edge
- Put out buoys
- Cleaned rocks from water growth
- Dug drainage culverts, levelled sod and soil
- Painted Junior Clubhouse and out buildings, tables and stools, children's games—swings, slides, sand boxes, baseball back stop, tennis court fence
- Cleared soil and completed boat launch, built pier
- Cleared brush from treed area, removed some large stumps and roots from walkways

Volunteers associated with this project provided funds for all material, built a road and dug culverts. Tractor and backhoe was provided for the work. Sand and gravel was spread over roadway. □

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LEIF EIRIKSSON CLUB

By Bjorgvin Sigurdson

A lot has transpired, of which our club was an active participant, since my last news letter. Most of it relative to the visit of a large group from Iceland, here to help in and with the celebration of the centennial of the first permanent settlement of Icelanders at Willow Point on Lake Winnipeg on Oct. 21, 1875. This area was then part of Keewatin territory, or just north of, the then, Manitoba boundary. The area settled by the Icelanders along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg became known as "New Iceland".

The celebrations went very well. For the three Alberta clubs, they culminated in the dedication ceremony of the **Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead** at Markerville, Alberta, which was declared to be set aside as a Historical Museum in honor to the memory of this great poet.

The dedication ceremony went well. The V.I.P.s spoke well and fluently. (I shall not go further into the details of the ceremony as I am sure other Markerville or Edmonton correspondents will be reporting it.)

I feel it would not be amiss to briefly review the circumstances and activities of the various clubs and persons who worked towards achieving the project of preserving the homestead of **Stephan G.**, the famed Icelandic poet and a pioneer of the Markerville district.

The Edmonton Icelandic Club, shortly after its inauguration, was the first organization to consider the possibility of restoring the homestead and keep it in repairs. Due to costs and other difficulties the project had to be postponed. In 1971, **Gisli Gudmundsson**, from Iceland, visited the homestead and later talking to me in Calgary voiced his deep concern about the condition of the house and suggested something should be done about it before it was too late. The matter was discussed with various members of the Edmonton and Calgary clubs; all agreed that an attempt to restore the homestead was a worthwhile idea, but how to raise the necessary money needed was a problem. As it was considered to be such a worthwhile project, it was decided to seek financial help from either the Federal or Provincial Historic Site Branches whether they would consider the idea of making the Homestead an Historic Site.

I discussed the situation with the officer in charge of the Federal Historic Branch Western Region. He was not very optimistic whether the Federal Government would be interested, but suggested the first

step to take was to get assurance that the site could be obtainable at a reasonable price, and then come up with a definite plan for the restoration of house and site.

I met **Barney Thorlakson**, then President of the Edmonton Club, at an I.N.L. meeting in Winnipeg in January 1972. We discussed the restoration project at some length. **Barney** agreed to see the pertinent officials of Historic Sites for the Province of Alberta. Their interest was aroused and their attitude so favourable that **Barney** went to see **Edwin Stephansson**, grandson of the poet and present owner of the old homestead. He made a verbal agreement for the purchase of the parcel of land, on which the house stands, at a very reasonable price and ascertained that there would not be any serious obstacles to the project from the County of Red Deer. He, however, ran into a snag in trying to purchase a parcel of land to the south of **Stephansson's**. This piece of land was almost essential in order to get a proper approach to the site. Things lagged again.

Early in 1973, **Albert Arnason**, of the Edmonton club, phoned me. He told me that his club had placed a sum of money at his disposal and had asked to see what he could do towards pushing the Markerville project towards its desired end. I assured **Al** that we were with him all the way. At the next executive meeting I got myself officially appointed as our club's representative on the committee which we named **The Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead Restoration Committee**. Later **Joe Johannson** of Markerville was named the committee official representing the Markerville club. On the second meeting, we acquired an agreement of sale for all the land needed, from both **Edwin Stephansson** and the Hutterite Colony in the district. Both parcels at a very reasonable price. For this we are very thankful, as it helped greatly in our dealings with the Department of Culture, who had verbally committed themselves as being interested in making **The Homestead** an historic museum.

To cut what is becoming a long story, short, a legal survey was authorized. The two parcels made into one, and a title for the property now being acquired, the project was cleared with the County of Red Deer, an approach to the site already in place and the homestead dedicated as an Historic Site.

I feel that those who played the biggest part in bringing this project to fruition should be named and congratulated for a job well done.

RONNING LODGE LANGUAGE CAMP

By Florence Nickolson

This year, Ronning Lodge of Camrose managed the Language Camp at Mulhurst, Pigeon Lake, Aug. 24-30. This camp is under the auspices of Torske Klubben, Sons of Norway, Edmonton.

Our Cultural Director, **Mrs. Helen Link**, arranged the ground work. There were 26 students who attended.

We were fortunate to get **Chris Hale** of the U. of A. Foreign Language Department to help **Mrs. Hulda**

First, to the Hon. **Horst Schmid** who appreciated the worthiness of the undertaking and was willing to sponsor it.

To **Al Arnason** of the Edmonton Club for his drive and continuous push until the job was finished.

To **Barney Thorlakson** of the Edmonton Club for doing the spade work.

To **Joe Johannson** of the Markerville Club for his good advice and his knowledge of the locale.

To **Edwin Stephansson** for his co-operation and good will in releasing the Homestead Site, and to the Hutterites in the district for their fairness and co-operation in releasing the approach site.

NOW FOR SOME NEWS

On July 16 the club hosted 230 visitors from Iceland at the Calgary Inn to a dinner and dance affair. All seemed to have had a good time. **Arni Bjarnarson** from Akureyri, Iceland, thanked the club for its hospitality and presented each of the committee with an Icelandic-Canadian centennial pin and a beautifully illustrated book on Akureyri.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with this group as an interpreter and some sort of guide from Vancouver to Winnipeg, and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the trip.

The group travelled in two sections, one day apart. They spent three days in Calgary touring the city, one day at Drumheller and, of course, one day at Markerville where they visited **Stephan G.'s** homestead and were served coffee and goodies.

At Gimli, I ran into **Cliff Morleinson**, **Jonine** and **Eggert Borgford**. Also the **Saga Singers**—heard them perform and, as usual, were good. Congratulations, **Saga Singers**.

The Markerville group must be commended and congratulated on their excellent work in connection with the dedication ceremony. They did most of the work, and there was a lot to do.

They also took time to host the various groups that visited the poet's homestead. Thank you, Markerville. □



Erickson of Frontier, Sask., to teach the Norwegian language and singing. She was also assisted by **Bernice Nyhus** with the beginners. The final evening program, all in Norwegian, was an excellent example of what can be accomplished in one week.

Astrid Hope of Solgylt Lodge, assisted by **Anne Heggen**, showed how much can be done in crafts. The students displayed their achievements of trolls from evergreen cones and bits of felt, cross stitch, stringart, weaving and, best of all, hardanger. **Mrs. Ben George** gave instruction in rose-malling for one day. Adults,

as well as students, were keen to learn.

Ann Foss taught singing and folk dancing to make the program delightful.

No camp would be complete without Norwegian baking. **Mrs. Avis Vigen** of Castor, assisted by **Mrs. Alice Larson**, taught the students to make rosettes, lefse, flat bread and many more. Our final treat was **rommegrot**.

A special thanks to **Mrs. Helen Lien**, Ronning Lodge, who acted as camp director and co-ordinator.

Boating, swimming and hiking were enjoyed after classes. □

Courtship in Norway

By Olaf Sveen

This time we are going to have a look at courting, especially how it was done in Norway in days gone by.

It has been said that it is during the time of courtship that couples have the most beautiful time together, and that this beautiful time is usually terminated as soon as they enter marriage with all its drabness and serious-

ness, something like a blue Monday following a wonderful weekend. This may be so.

Not only people have courtships. I remember in Saskatchewan we were watching the prairie chickens doing their wooing. They seemed to have a certain piece of prairie reserved

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Kitchen Corner

For Halloween treats, try these good Caramel Apples.

CARAMEL APPLES

1 lb. vanilla caramels
2 tablespoons water
6 apples (medium)
Chopped walnuts

Melt caramels with water in double boiler; stir till smooth. Put a wooden skewer into blossom end of each apple. Dip the apples in the caramel syrup until completely coated. Roll the bottom half of each apple in chopped nuts.

(If syrup is too thick, add a few drops of water.)

Set on cookie sheet covered with waxed paper.

Tea loaves are handy to have around for tea or coffee snacks. They are good for lunches, also. Make several and freeze them.

HARVEST LOAF CAKE

1 3/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon*
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
3/4 cup canned or cooked pumpkin
3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
3/4 cup finely chopped walnuts

Grease bottom of 9x5x3-inch pan. Combine flour with soda, salt and spices. Cream butter in large mixing bowl. Gradually add sugar; cream at high speed of mixer until light and fluffy. Blend in eggs; beat well. At low speed add dry ingredients alternately with pumpkin; begin and end with dry ingredients. Blend well after each addition. Stir in chocolate chips and 1/2 cup walnuts. Pour into pan. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup walnuts. Bake at 325°F for 65 to 75 minutes until cake springs back when touched lightly in centre. Cool. Drizzle with Glaze (see below). Let stand 6 hours before slicing.

SPICE GLAZE

Combine:
1/2 cup sifted icing sugar
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
1 to 2 tablespoons cream

Blend in the cream until the consistency of a glaze.

* If desired, 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice may be substituted for cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and cloves.

TEA LOAF SURPRISE

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup cream
1/2 cup honey
3 teaspoons cinnamon
2 cups finely chopped walnuts
3 1/2 cups flour
3 cups sugar
2 teaspoons soda
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 cups grated raw carrots
1 cup cooking oil
3/4 cup water
4 eggs

Line two 9x5x3-inch pans with aluminum foil; grease. Combine in saucepan butter, cream, honey and 2 teaspoons cinnamon; bring to a boil and cook 1 minute. Stir in 1 1/2 cups walnuts; cool. Combine flour, sugar, soda, salt, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and nutmeg in large mixing bowl. Stir in carrots and 1/2 cup walnuts. Combine oil, water and eggs; add to dry ingredients. Mix only until all dry particles are moistened. Place 1 cup batter in each pan; top with 1/2 cup nut mixture. Cover with 1 cup batter, then 1/2 cup nut mixture. Top with remaining batter. Bake at 325°F for 65 to 75 minutes until centre of crack is dry to touch. Cool 15 minutes. Remove from pan. Store overnight before slicing.

Try these delicious Pumpkin Tarts to top off your Thanksgiving feast.

PUMPKIN CHIFFON TARTS

3/4 cup brown sugar
1 envelope (1 tablespoon) unflavored gelatin
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ginger
3 slightly beaten egg yolks
3/4 cup milk
1 1/4 cups canned or mashed cooked pumpkin
3 egg whites
1/3 cup white sugar
Baked tart shells

In saucepan, combine brown sugar, gelatin, salt and spices. Combine egg yolks and milk; stir into brown sugar mixture. Cook, stirring constantly till mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat, stir in pumpkin. Chill till mixture mounds slightly when spooned. Beat egg whites till soft peaks form; gradually add white sugar and beat till stiff peaks form. Fold pumpkin mixture thoroughly into egg whites. Turn into baked tart shells. Garnish with whipped cream.

Note: The secret of fluffy filling is not to let gelatin

Multiculturalism Meeting

By Linnea Lodge

Dr. Joe Bugis and I attended a meeting of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism at the Edmonton Plaza on September 20, 1975. The conference was held by the British Columbia, Yukon Region and the Prairies, and the Northwest Territories Region. Sessions were conducted by Regional Chairmen, Mr. Horst Koehler, Vancouver, B.C., and Prof. Manoly R. Lupul, Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Koehler presented a paper on Mass Media. Mr. G. Galbraith, Project Leader of Social Com-

munications, and Mr. John Horvath, Research Officer for Multiculturalism, both from the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, presented policy regarding programming of ethnocultural segments of Canadian society.

Representations from ethnocultural producers presented their situations in their respective communities. Other topics that came under discussion were Multicultural Channels, Multilingual Broadcasting, Language Teaching and Cablevision.

Federal Labor Minister John Munro attended all sessions. Mayor William Hawrelak brought greetings from the City of Edmonton, and the Hon. Horst Schmid greeted the seminar on behalf of the Province of Alberta.

SCANDINAVIAN RECIPE FOR OCTOBER

SWEDISH BROWN BEANS

(Serves eight to ten)

Soak 1 lb. white pea beans in 2 quarts cold water overnight. Chop 2 medium-size onions and 2 medium-size cloves of garlic extremely fine. Cut 1/4 lb. bacon slices into very small dice or chop the bacon with a heavy knife until it is minced. In a large, heavy stewing pot combine the bacon, onions and garlic. Cook over a slow flame, stirring frequently until onions just turn yellow. Do not brown bacon. Add the beans together with the water in which they were soaked. Add 1 pint additional cold water, or enough to cover beans. Bring to a boil. Add 4 chicken bouillon cubes. Cook the beans slowly keeping the pot covered for 1 hour. Add 1/3 cup dark molasses, 1/4 cup dark brown sugar, 1/4 cup vinegar, 1 tablespoon prepared mustard and 1 teaspoon brown gravy color. Add salt and pepper to taste. Continue to cook beans over a very slow flame for about 1 hour more until tender. Watch the pot carefully, stirring the beans on the bottom to avoid scorching, keeping the flame low all the time. Swedish brown beans should be prepared the day before they are served, and reheated just before serving.

DID YOU KNOW?

To beat eggs quickly, add a pinch of salt.

Egg white is useful in removing gum from clothing or hair.

A little salt added to flour before adding water will keep it from being lumpy.

Two tablespoons of lemon juice added to one cup of milk will sour it.

Roll sausages in flour before frying. It will prevent breaking and improve the flavor.

Cakes keep longer and better if frozen unfrosted.

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COURTSHIP

for this purpose, and we could see the males showing off in front of the females, right in plain sight. They didn't seem to be afraid of anything. It seemed to me that if there had been a hawk around that he would have had a field day. But nothing happened, it seemed like they were protected by Ralph Waldo Emerson's saying: "Everybody loves a lover."

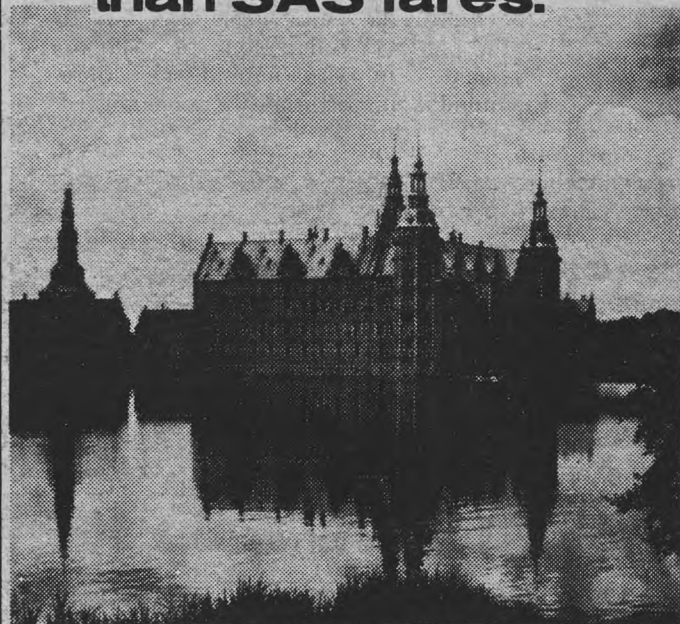
I remember from the 1930s in Norway how they tried to broadcast "Tiur-leik" on the radio. That means the sounds the wild turkey uses during courtship. So they took microphones out in the woods, but we never got to hear the bird on the radio, either he wasn't in the mood for love that particular night, or else he didn't like all the publicity. It was announced in the program papers a week ahead of time. Nowadays they would have made the tape recording of the sounds beforehand, but that is another story.

We read about courtship in the bible how Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, and how he was fooled. So he had to work another seven years, but then he had two wives.

In the story of Ruth, it appears that she is doing the courting, and it is one of

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COURTSHIP

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COURTSHIP

the most beautiful stories of all time.

Havamal has some advice about courting: "He who would win a woman's love must speak fair and offer presents, praise the lovely lady's figure. It is the flatterer who carries the day. No one should trust the words of a girl or what a married woman says. Their hearts have been shaped on a turning wheel, and inconstancy dwells in their breasts. Great love turns the sons of men from wise men into fools."

In Norse Mythology we read about the god, Frey, wooing Gerd, a girl he happened to see one day he sat in the seat of Odin—you can see the whole world from there. She lived in the underworld where the Giants are, and he sent his servant Skirnir to get her. After threatening her with his magic sword he brought her back with him, and it is only fair to mention that Women's Lib came much later.

Snorri tells us about how Harald Fairhair courted Gytha, the daughter of King Eirik of Horthaland—at that time she was being fostered in Valdres with a powerful franklin—whom he desired to have as his concubine because she was a maiden of great beauty and high spirits. And when the messengers arrived there they delivered their message to the maiden. She answered to the effect that she did not intend to cast away her maidenhood to marry a king who did not dispose of more than a couple of shires. (A shire is the size of a county in England.)

"But it seems strange to me," she said, "that there is no king ambitious enough to claim Norway as his own and be sole king over it as is King Gorm in Denmark and Eirik in Uppsala."

The messengers were of the opinion that her answer showed extraordinary haughtiness and asked her what she meant by her answer saying that Harald was a king powerful enough to bestow her hand upon. But though her answer was different from what they had expected, they saw no other way, for the time being, to accomplish their mission so, despairing of having her with them against her will, they prepared to leave. But when they departed, her men accompanied them on their way. Then she spoke to the messengers and asked them to carry the message from her to King Harald that she would consent to be his lawful wife only if, before that, he would, for her sake, conquer all of Norway and govern that realm as independently as did Eirik of Sweden and Gorm of Denmark theirs.

"Because only then," she said, "it would seem to me, could he be called a

sovereign king."

The messengers then returned to King Harald and reported to him the words of the maiden. They told him that she was the most insolent and foolish woman, and it would be right if the king dispatched a great force to bring her to him in disgrace. Then King Harald answered that the maiden had not spoken evil or done anything meriting revenge. He bade her, on the contrary, many thanks for her words.

"She has reminded me," said he, "of what it seems strange that I never thought of before." And still further he said, "I make this vow, and call God to witness, he who created me and governs all, (this last sentence is wrong due to bad reporting and misquoting for Harald was still a heathen) that I shall neither cut nor comb my hair before I have conquered all of Norway, with all its taxes and revenues, and govern it altogether, or else die."

His marshal, Guthorm, thanked him much for these words and said it was a royal task to fulfil his vow.

Later, King Harald had now become sole ruler of all Norway. Then he called to mind what the proud maiden had said to him. Then he sent his messengers to her and had her brought to him to share his couch.

The following were their children: Alof was the eldest, then came Hrarek, then Sigtrygg, Frothi and Thorgils.

And still later, King Harald was being entertained in Møre at Earl Rognvald's estate. By that time he had taken possession of the entire country. Then the king had a bath prepared for himself. He had his hair combed and dressed. Earl Rognvald cut his hair, which had gone uncut and uncombed for ten years. Then people called him Harald Luffa; but afterwards Earl Rognvald gave him the name of Harald Fairhair, and everyone who saw him said that this was a most appropriate name because his hair was both long and beautiful.

And so it came about that Norway was gathered into one kingdom just because a girl played hard to get.

That true love never runs smooth we can find out about when we read how Olaf Tryggvason was courting Queen Sigrith of Sweden. First he sent her a golden ring that turned out to be made partly of copper, and that gave her some misgivings. Then when they finally met, he asked her to become a Christian, and that is when she really blew her top.

"This may well be your death," she said.

So they parted and she was right about his death.

By far the most important way to make a living in Norway in the old days was in agriculture, so land was the most valuable possession

one could have.

One time the son of a big farmer in Hallingdal went ahead on his own and got engaged to a good-looking but poor girl. The farmer said to his son:

"I wouldn't love you much if I let you marry someone who hardly owns the clothes she is wearing. And I wouldn't be much of a man if I weren't able to find you a wife more suited to your position in society."

He found his boy a less good-looking, but rich, girl, so the day they got married the son said to his bride:

"I have given you my hand, but I left my heart in Hallingdal."

He was stubborn to the very last.

Who they were to marry had to be sanctioned by the parents, and the young folks seldom opposed this, even if they did so in their hearts. It was important to the parents that the children would be well-off economically when they married, and it was also important that both the young people were of equal status. If a boy from a farm where they had two horses married a girl from a farm where they only had one horse, his parents would feel that they had been cheated. But on the other hand, if his girl came from a farm with three horses, his parents would be happy, but the boy might feel as if he were getting into nobility and that he was aiming too high.

The wife's realm was the kitchen, the "stabbur" (food store house) and the barn. It was many times an advantage that the wife was quite a bit older than the husband, that way she would be more experienced in running her part of the farming operation.

Many times agreements were made so that a boy married a girl on the terms that her brother married the boy's sister. This was called "heimda-byte" or home-trade. Such deals were often made while the children were still small.

The young ones often protested against being told who to marry:

"What is the use being well off if you have to cry yourself to sleep every night?"

But more often it was the other way around, if the boy would suggest that they should get married without asking mom and dad, the girl would usually insist on asking for her parents' consent first. The reasoning was that if you wanted to be happy, you could not go against the will of your parents. You also could be punished economically if you did—maybe all the girl could take with her would be more or less the clothes she was wearing. One time in Hardanger, a girl had to leave home empty-handed because she married the wrong guy. It took several years before the young

couple had any worldly goods to speak of, and then finally her parents sent her all her belongings and stuff she had coming in the first place.

Young folks didn't have much opportunity to meet and see each other in everyday life in those days. They had to stay far apart when people were watching, and it was also counted as unmanly to show your feelings. It says in an Icelandic saga that a young boy had clearly shown that he liked one girl more than her sisters, so he was killed by her brother on the father's command. Icelandic law said that anyone who was caught writing love poems to a girl had to go into exile.

At feasts, as well as in everyday life, men and women were always segregated, and they sat on different sides of the table at mealtime. In Setesdal the men ate alone.

In church the men and women sat on separate sides of the aisles. The young people could, of course, have a look at each other in church. A boy could throw an odd eyeball across the aisle to a girl, hoping she would throw one back. But the church frowned upon such behavior. I know I shall be straying away from the subject a little, but to illustrate what kind of atmosphere there was, it can be mentioned that it was illegal to leave the church before the service was over, and people got fined if they did. People were also fined if they got caught using swearwords. The church was strict, and it was watching pretty close.

The only time the young ones could really meet and learn to know each other was on Saturday night. They slept in the barn or on the hayloft in the wintertime, and upstairs in the house in the summertime. It was the custom that the boys went to see the girls in their bedrooms. People have questioned the morality of such behavior, but most have come to the conclusion that there wasn't anything wrong with it. Pastor Eilert Sundt did some research on the subject about 150 years ago. He discovered that in many places the hired man and the hired girl had to share the same bed, presumably on account of a shortage of beds. This turned out to be a bit of a hazard. But to go and visit your girl in her bedroom on Saturday night wasn't all that bad, after all, everybody was fully dressed.

"And there is no other way to meet," said the farmers.

Mark Twain said one time: "There is no such thing as morality; it is not immoral for the tiger to eat the wolf, or the wolf the cat, or the cat the bird, and so on down; that is their business. It is not immoral to create the human species—with or without

ceremony; nature intended exactly these things."

And I remember one time we were talking about the salmon, and what a miracle it was that he goes up to the end of the river to spawn. Then someone said: "That is not the point. If he didn't do it we wouldn't have to worry about it anymore." It is the same way with the human race, if our forefathers hadn't acted the way they did, maybe we wouldn't be around.

At least, it was all right for the suitors to go and see the girls as long as they had honorable intentions. But almost everything can be abused, even freedom. So, often young fellows would get together in gangs and go from farm to farm and think of doing nothing else but tricks, such as letting the horses loose and let them run away. A guy could also try and disguise his voice so the girl would open the door for him, thinking it was the boyfriend. Some fellows were especially gifted in throwing a guy out of a girl's bed. He would know some holds that you couldn't resist, and out of bed you would go, head first. A man like that would be very much respected in the community.

When the girls slept in the barn, it was often great fun to drag a poor suitor back and forth on the floor right behind the cows, and then finally dunk him in the water tank for good measure. It is amazing how such treatment makes one forget about romance.

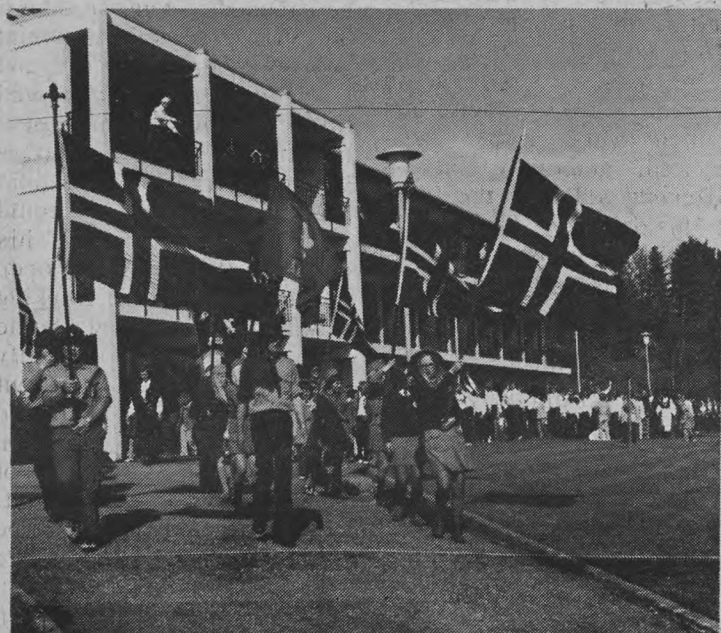
"Might is right" was the slogan in those days, so smaller guys could have a girlfriend together. One of them would stand on top of the stairway and make sure nobody else came up. He was in a position to kick the competition in the teeth, or else hit them on top of the head with a stick of wood or something. Remember: "In war and love, everything is allowed", and these were hard times with every man for himself. In the meantime his partner took care of the girl and they would take turns. Human ingenuity is boundless. In some places they didn't have a stairway, they were using pegs stuck in the wall at random. One time a fellow trying to get up such a wall was heard to remark to his friend: "I would hate to travel on horseback here."

By and by, a girl would find out who she liked to come and visit her, and since it was an honor for a girl to have several such visitors, she would let a handpicked bunch in along with the real boyfriend, just so that he wouldn't feel too sure of himself. There is nothing like a little competition to stimulate interest, and besides, she could show him how popular she was. Also, that way she could have another boyfriend on tap if the worst happened.

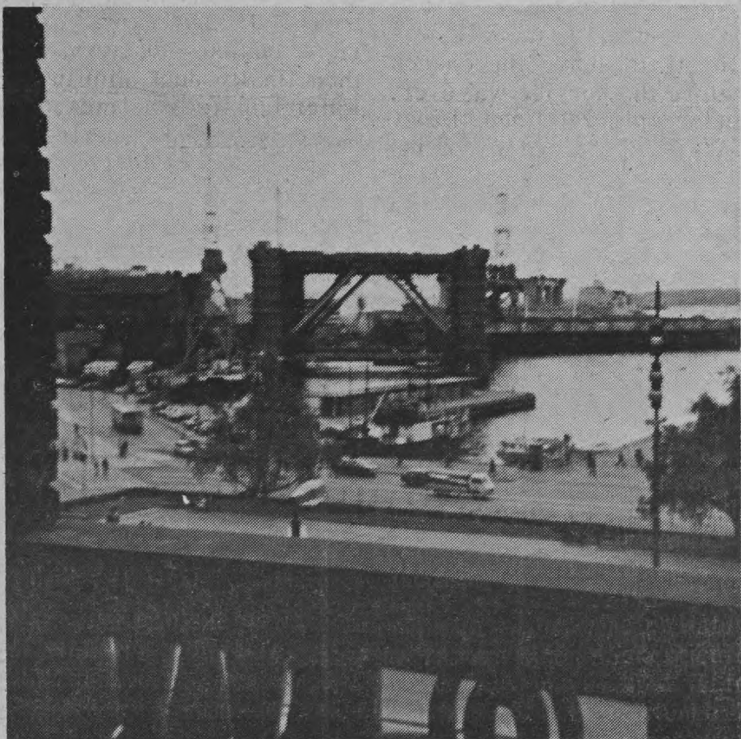
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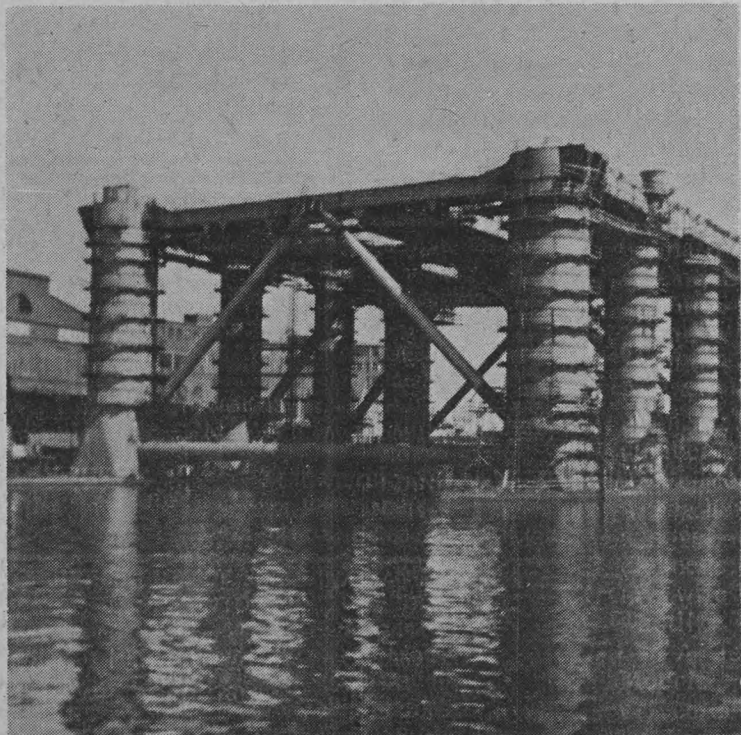
Scandinavian Centre Queen contestants: Lena Larsen, Laurie Eliason, former Queen Inge Nielsen, Susan Lundberg and the new Queen Karen Nasset.



May 17th parade coming in front of Solasheimen.



Oil well riggings in Oslo harbour.



Scene from Radhus (City Hall) showing oil well riggings in Oslo harbour.

Continued from Page 6 LOOKING BACK

happy and busy year. Two events would sometimes fall on the same night but everyone was very understanding when such a situation occurred.

Looking back at the past year all I can recall are good times. I met many new people and really got involved with the Centre. There were many highlights during my term: Appearing on TV, New Year's Dances, Board of Directors' Supper, Mothers' Day, Hosting the Klondike Days Association, and many other events throughout the year.

One of the most enjoyable experiences was becoming involved with the Viking Disco. In my opinion it is one of the best ideas the Centre has had. There is a great bunch of kids attending and I'm proud to be a part of it.

I know my successor will benefit from her year as Queen just as I have. To make a long story short, thanks to all of you for a wonderful year! To Karen Nasset I wish all the best in her coming year, may it be as rewarding as mine was. □

The hardest thing about climbing the ladder of success is to get through the crowd at the bottom.

Continued from Page 3 TRIP TO NORWAY

did happen to latch onto a Gjesdal Sparebank Souvenir. The only hitch—if it ever got filled you had to come back to this bank to open it with a special key—anyway, a nice souvenir from Gjesdal Sparebank. That day \$100 was worth kr. 482.

A few days after our arrival, Myrtle and I decided to go into Stavanger. Compared to Edmonton, it is called "The Oil Capital of Norway" and is just influxed with Americans, so in our shopping travels there, we never did feel too far from home. Again we were really awed by the wondrous spring beauty of the countryside. Stavanger is a noted western fjord town with a charming blend of old fishing village and modern city. It has narrow, medieval cobblestone streets winding their way to the harbour with quaint wooden houses painted in gay colors representing the past.

This year, Stavanger has been very renowned, for it is the home of "150 aars utvandringen" (150 years immigration). It was the Norwegian "Mayflower". For it was 150 years ago, July 4, 1825, that the famous renovated 38-ton sluppen "Restauration" took 52 immigrants to America which marked the arrival of the first organized wave of Norwegians to settle on American soil since the days of their Viking forebears under Leif Erikson. It was

a saga of hardship and adventure, an element of great Nordic heritage.

There was going to be an abundance of celebrations in this place commemorating the departure. Starting on May 17, there were to be special official ceremonies at Tysvær, near Haugesund, where Cleng Peerson, father of immigration, came from. There were special medallions made, the postal service issued special stamps and, on July 4, there would be a special service in Stavanger Cathedral in the presence of King Olaf, also on that day the ship, Christian Radich was leaving this port for New York, taking the same trip as the sloop, "Restauration".

While in Stavanger, we made a special tour of the famous "Domkirke" (Cathedral). It is the only one built in the Middle Ages, about 1100, that has fully retained its original features of true Gothic architecture besides the Trondheim Cathedral, and possibly the demolished Apostle's Church in Bergen. A person becomes silently awed by its vastness, heavily carved decorations of crabs and

crucifers; the pulpit and rich sculptured fixtures, pillars, lofty pinnacles; and the interior of the chancel which is dominated by the mass of light that comes pouring in through the large stained glass windows. Throughout the ages, Stavanger has taken great pride in their cathedral and striven to keep it beautiful. It had been restored recently (1932-42) by Stavanger people who emigrated to America and citizens of Stavanger, itself, who have great regard for old traditions. It is one of Norway's most beautiful medieval churches.

A must in Stavanger is to see the harbour and market. Stavanger is the centre of the Norwegian fish canning industry, for from here come the "King Oscar" sardines and "Nordic" anchovies that are so popular even with our Sons of Norway smorgasbords. Also this centre now leads in ship building. One can always see a huge ship or ships docked from other countries at this harbour—and eat fresh shrimps!

Visit Norway in May! One

Continued on Page 12
TRIP TO NORWAY

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Continued from Page 11
TRIP TO NORWAY

festival you can't miss is "Syttende Mai" (May 17). On May 17, Norway celebrates her National Day, like we have our July 1, only they really go all out. For it was May 17, 1814, that Norway received her independence from years and years of struggle to be free—and well she has a right to celebrate. Everybody gets into a patriotic and carnival mood with processions and "fests" in every town and village. It is most colorful with the bands, flags and costumes. In Oslo, the capital, the procession of children and flags moved towards King Olaf's castle, where the King and his family stand out on the balcony and wave to the people.

As mother couldn't remember or wasn't ever a part of a May 17 celebration as a girl, she wanted to be in the area she grew up in, so here we are at Aalgaard for Syttende Mai. As early as 7 a.m. we could hear the sounds of bands which apparently were going in and out and between the streets. People, young and old, were all going in the same direction, towards the centre of town, all bedecked in their Sunday best, of which the majority of the children's clothing worn was purchased especially for this occasion, and they all had their Norwegian flag in hand. You could just feel the excitement in the air! And such a magnificent day! It had rained a little every day since our arrival and again the following day. So this day was truly a day the Norwegians could be thankful for and go all out to celebrate the most important date on their calendar.

The children's parade started at 8:45 a.m. from Aalgaard school. The parade was led by three cadets carrying majestic Norwegian flags followed by bands—Aalgaard Musikkorps—who celebrated their 75-year anniversary this year. They were most colorful in their red or green top coats, followed by groups of children according to classroom with their respective "lareren" (teachers), who were, on the majority, in costume. The Rogaland "drakt" (costume), like mine, was certainly in abundance in that procession, and I took pleasure in seeing so many other different "drakts". The parade circled around "Solasheimen" (Home for Senior Citizens) where, incidentally, my "Tante" (Aunt) Lisa lived, and after they came back to our vantage point, we followed along with our flags, too.

At 9:30 a.m. there was a church service at the Aalgaard church, which seems to be very much the part of the program for any May 17 celebration. It was at this point Myrtle and I

separated from the parade. We were to partake in another festivity in the country—in Gjesdal Kirke (Church)(mother's name)—which was only 15 minutes away. It was a real picturesque setting!—mountains on all sides, small lakes scattered here and there, with this white church and its prominent steeple; in the middle of an area, blissfully pastoral—numerous sheep and cattle scattered about were lounging along the lower slopes.

There was another parade here; with more bands; children and grownups dressed up in costume and more flags, which was every bit as big as the one in town. They proceeded along a country road, up and down hills, in a sort of circle, back to the church. Myrtle and I were busy taking pictures, and what a time for my camera to go on strike! We took in the church service here at 11:30 a.m. The interior had the appearance of some of the older Lutheran churches here in Canada still in existence, with its biblical paintings on a stark white arched altar. The pastor still wore that stiff Elizabethan type of collar.

After church the people gathered together in the newly-built hall adjacent to the church. There was polse, etc., and many brought their own family lunch, lots of baking familiar to us—lefse, julebrød, "blottekakke" and coffee. Later on there were all kinds of children's races and games with prizes. The afternoon there finished with an entertaining program of singing and dancing.

There were "fests" of all kinds just everywhere—a climax to every Syttende Mai. We were invited by a relative to go to Bryne Gymnas (gymnasium) for a fest there. There was a musical program first, followed by a speech by one of the teachers. (They, too, have long, drawn-out speeches!) He spoke of how thankful Norwegians should be who are now free, about the Resistance Movement during the last war, and how lucky they were not to be at constant war like Vietnam, etc., etc.) We had coffee, smorrebrød and lefse for intermission. A dance followed which commenced with everybody doing the "Grand March". What a spectacle it was!—again with so many different costumes—ladies' and men's, from several different areas—Sogn, Telemark, Hardanger, Nord Norge, etc. Many folk dances were done followed by general dancing. It climaxed with the repeat of the Grand March and joining crossed hands in a circle. So ended May 17 celebration there, but probably went on way into the night elsewhere.

Gode lukken med dagen."

(P.S. I was asked to write

in detail—May 17 in Norway as I saw it. I was thinking of you in Edmonton and how you were celebrating it.) □
Continued next issue

Continued from Page 2
LUCKY EDITOR

Danish descent and didn't know that Mr. Morris was the editor of the Scandinavian Centre News when the draw was made) at Northern Kirby Co. Ltd., 8602 - 99 St., Edmonton—phone 433-3155, or at his residence, 466-3466. □

Continued from Page 1
DEDICATION DAY

milestone. Mr. Nielsen also mentioned that the Vasa Order had extended a lot of effort and co-operation in the Centre's organization.

District Master, Mr. Glen Eliasson, brought greetings from Alberta District #18 of the Vasa Order of America. He said everyone else had touched on everything he wanted to mention so there was very little left for him to say, but he also remarked on the co-operation involved.

Greetings from far and near were read by our very capable Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Raymond Wold. One very beautiful letter brought tears to my eyes. It was from a member who had been a member of Children's Club and a former camper. As we worked during Children's Week, I don't think any of us ever realized that these youngsters were aware of all the things we had to do. Water had to be carried, milk had to be brought from a nearby farm, wood had to be chopped, and meals must be on time. There were swimmers to supervise, Swedish dances and songs to teach. Treasure hunts and hikes to plan. A thousand and one things to do. Today we have plumbing, a gas stove to cook on and a beautiful clubhouse. Quite different from those far gone days when we had a much smaller clubhouse, a coal and wood stove, primitive refrigeration, no electricity. The lake was our water supply. We had to man the rowboat, row out a few feet and fill a few pails several times a day. Besides that, we had a very limited supply of play equipment for the children. It took a great deal of ingenuity on the part of those in charge. Things are much easier in these modern times.

This letter writer in her reminiscing gave me the impression that those camp days at Vasa Park had been happy days and that she was most grateful to have had the opportunity to be one of our campers. I'm sure there are many more who look back on those days at Vasa Camp as among their happiest. I was involved in these camps for many years and it made me and my colleagues very happy to hear our work had

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October 5 and 19 - 11:00 a.m. - Danish
October 12 and 26 - 11:00 a.m. - English

ANNUAL SWEDISH SMORGASBORD

Saturday, October 25

Scandinavian Centre
14220 - 125 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

DINING - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT - 8:00 - 9:00

DANCING - 9:00 p.m. - 12:00

ADMISSION - Adults \$5.00

Children 12 years and under \$2.50

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DANIA BANQUET

Saturday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the

Viking Room of the Scandinavian Centre

SILD, SNAPS AND SMØRREBRØD
(Herrings, Snaps and Open Face Sandwiches)

\$7.50 per person - Get your tickets early

been appreciated.

After singing the Swedish National Anthem, refreshments were served. Later, a delicious dinner, catered by Mr. Ernie Hokanson, was enjoyed by all present.

Yes, it was a very good day. Thank you, Mr. Tom Pearson for coming up with such a good idea and for all those hours you contributed to the project. Thank you, too, Mrs. Linnea Lodge, and all those who helped make it such a memorable occasion.

The dedication plaque reads as follows:

In Dedication
To the Pioneers of Skandia
Lodge #549

For their foresight in
obtaining and developing
Vasa Park

for all members to enjoy
August 24, 1975

Most of the pioneers are

gone now and it is such a good, warm feeling to know that their work is being carried on by those who are younger, those who are strong, energetic and healthy. May you live in health to enjoy Vasa Park for many more years. □

Continued from Page 1
QUEEN CONTEST

Mrs. Lorna Plouffe
Mrs. Marilyn Endberg
Mr. Oscar Plouffe

They were thanked for a job well done and were presented with a plaque.

Our thanks go out to the many people who helped in preparing for the contest and helping by just being there, to our very good judges, to our faithful photographer, Verna Larson, to the Centre Manager, Peter Elander, and our editor of the Scandinavian Centre News, Les Morris. □